

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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March 27, 1972

KARL L. HEIMBURG

Karl L. Heimburg is the Director of the Astronautics Laboratory at the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center near Huntsville, Alabama.

He was born in Lindenfels, Hessen, Germany, on January 29, 1910, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Wilhelm Heimburg, and became a U. S. Citizen on April 14, 1955. He was educated in the schools of Germany and was graduated from the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany, in 1935 with a Mechanical Engineering degree.

Mr. Heimburg began his engineering career in 1935 as a member of the C. Illies Company, Hamburg, Germany; Tokyo, Japan; Korea and Manchuria and remained with this firm until 1942 when he joined the German Guided Missile Center at Pennemuende.

The research field in which Mr. Heimburg specializes is rocket propulsion, particularly in the area of vehicle application and testing. On November 8, 1963, he was presented the Hermann Oberth Award for outstanding contributions in the advancement of the state-of-art in rocket testing. He was awarded NASA's Exceptional Service Medal in January 1969, for his contribution to the Apollo 8 lunar orbital mission. He is a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Mr. Heimburg is married to the former Miss Ruth Inga Holtz and the couple has 3 children.

The Marshall Space Flight Center is the largest field center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Its current projects include the Saturn launch vehicles, the Lunar Roving Vehicle for riding on the Moon's surface, and the Skylab program which includes the first U. S. embryonic space station and manned solar observatory. The Center is also deeply involved in research and early design work on the Research and Applications Modules (RAM), the reusable space transportation system (or space shuttle), and an unmanned satellite project called High Energy Astronomy Observatory. Other areas of research include environmental applications, manufacturing in space, manned flight awareness and the space tug.